

MAY 10 1971

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Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Department of Genetics  
STANFORD, Ca. 94305  
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May 6, 1971.  
RRN/GR

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Thank you for your letter of April 30.

I think you will find that trade in chemical agents and weapons is pretty tightly controlled by governments, as indeed is all types of trade in weapons nowadays, so that the problem is to ensure that governments behave in a restrained manner. There may be scope for unilateral action. The chemical corps might be more tightly restrained from spreading its doctrines abroad, and so on. But one would have to think very carefully before setting about open multilateral action, lest one aroused sentiments of discrimination which were counter-productive in their effects.

I am interested in your thought that the "encapsulation of nuclear power" is a possibility, albeit an optimistic one. If that happens, then of course I agree that chemical weapons could become decisive in the balance of strength between the nuclear powers and verification would become important for exactly the same reasons that we argue it may now be important to "middle powers". In short, the nuclear powers would cease effectively to be nuclear powers and would become middle powers in our classification.

I am passing on copies of our correspondence to Julian Perry Robinson who will be dealing with binaries in a forthcoming volume of our CBW study and who, as you know, has a very wide interest in the whole field.

Yours sincerely,



R.R. Neild